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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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DATE DISTR. 24 JAN 52

SUBJECT :   
the Leuna Plant and the Chamber of Technology

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(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO. 25X1

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Leuna used a special steel in contact with fuming nitric acid. It was known as V46A steel, and contained 18 per cent chromium, eight per cent nickel, and two per cent each of copper and titanium. The carbon content had to be less than 0.01 per cent. This special steel offered complete protection against corrosion in the nitric acid plant.

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The most important developments currently in progress at Leuna are the development of perlon fiber and the reconstruction of the urea and nitric acid plants. The perlon fiber project is under the supervision of Dr (fnu) Deiters, a very capable chemist with a great deal of experience. The urea plant is being rebuilt under the guidance of Dr (fnu) Frick, an expert

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

ARMY & NAVY REVIEWS  
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in his field and a competent chemist. The reconstruction of the nitric acid plant is supervised by three expert chemists - Drs (fnu) Wilfroth, (fnu) Lutz and (fnu) Moritz.

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Several special projects are sponsored by the Soviets, but it is not always easy to ascertain their military implications. Such projects are:

- (a) The development of materials for lacquers and paints, especially black and red iron oxide. To date, the production of oxides has yielded small quantities of high quality oxides, but impractical for use as paint pigments because of the high cost.
- (b) The use of alkydals (trade name of an I G Farben alkyd resin) as an additive for nitrocellulose.
- (c) The use of methanol as a solvent for nitrocellulose.

These projects are progressing very slowly. The organic department, under the supervision of Drs (fnu) Sundhoff, (fnu) Munzing, (fnu) Bankowski, and (fnu) Bemann, is holding back as much as possible in order to deny the Soviets the benefit of such research.

- (d) Perlon production is solely for Soviet consumption, and this work is the only part of the organic department production program which is pushed by the Soviets.

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The purpose of the Chamber of Technology is to make available the professional experience of the members in all fields of science and technology. It is similar to former professional associations (chemical engineers, electrical engineers, etc) with the one vast difference, that it is a government organization. As such, the government can check on research and production in the various fields of science and technology. The personnel consists of academically trained professional men and employees with technical training. The leading positions in the various boards and committees are held primarily by union bosses who are members of the Communist Party. [redacted] the Chamber of Technology can provide the necessary coordination for war research, because research projects can be assigned to professional groups through the Chamber. [redacted]

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Until the spring of 1951, about 300 tons of methanol were shipped to the USSR monthly.

At the present time, there are no shipments of alcohol from Leuna to the USSR.

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insecticides are produced by the pharmaceutical department

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9.

Picric acid is not produced at Leuna. Leuna has supplied the entire Soviet Zone of Germany with sulphur, the sulphur output at about 20-40 tons per day.

10.

Dr Gericke produced oils which retain their fluidity at very low temperatures. these oils were ethylene-polymerization products, made with chlorine additives. At Leuna, ethylene was made from hydrogenation gases by cracking under an electric arc. The oil was used during World War II for machine guns, and retains its fluidity at temperatures of -30° to -40°C.

11.

the raw materials for perlon are urea, formaldehyde, adipic acid, dicarbonic acids, and diamines in molecularly equal parts.

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Note: The raw materials for Perlon manufacture listed here are obviously in error.

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